



## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 14, 2022

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 168 towns and cities.

- **HB 5417 - An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice and Services and Firearms Background Checks**
- **HB 5418 - An Act Revising Juvenile and Criminal Justice Statutes and Insurance Statutes Concerning Theft of a Motor Vehicle**
- **SB 16 - Governor's Proposal to Address Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime**
- **SB 365 - An Act Concerning Juvenile and Criminal Justice Reforms**
- **SB 387 - An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

These bills recommend a variety of initiatives relating to juvenile justice and youth violence. Various provisions of these proposals would, among other things, (a) modify the arraignment proceedings for juveniles, (b) allow for GPS monitoring of juvenile offenders in certain circumstances, (c) increase the sharing of information concerning juvenile cases by law enforcement agencies, (d) transfer to regular criminal docket for thirteen and fourteen-year-olds if charged with certain violent crimes, (e) increase the funding to support hiring of additional police officers and supplement an increase in training programs, and (f) establish initiatives to help probation officers reduce recidivism among the juveniles and adults.

While these bills contain a variety of proposals, CCM is still working with our membership to reach a consensus on the different proposals and are offering our initial commentary regarding the various provisions and providing context into our organization's efforts relating to violence prevention.

In September 2021, CCM convened a Task Force on Violence Prevention. This group, led by Mayor Rilling from Norwalk, has a particular focus on youth violence. To date, most of the work has resulted in better understanding the issue and examining best practices that have been employed by communities in Connecticut and throughout the country. The Task Force consists of both local CEO's and other local officials representing law enforcement, social services and policy experts.

Preliminarily, CCM supports efforts that would provide law enforcement and judges greater access to information regarding juvenile offender records, along with providing greater tools available to judges that would expand eligibility and increase the vigor and funding of diversionary programs. In addition,

CCM supports additional funding that will increase police officer training and providing them additional tools necessary to enhance policing efforts focusing on reducing youth recidivism rates.

While CCM's Task Force has not been able to convene and discuss these particular bills in detail, we are planning to convene the task after the public hearing to deliberate these proposals and will engage with the Committee prior to the JF deadline on collaborative ways to address this issue.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or 203-500-7556.